

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A process for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which comprises:

- (a) providing a chaotrope;
- (b) providing a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope;
- (c) providing a source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$ ;
- (d) contacting the sample with the nucleic acid binding solid phase in the presence of a liquid phase comprising the chaotrope and the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$ ; and
- (e) optionally separating the solid phase with the nucleic acid bound thereto from the liquid phase.

2. (Original) A process according to claim 1, which further comprises a step of eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

3. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a biological sample.

4. (Original) A process according to claim 3, wherein the biological sample comprises a cellular sample.

5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, which further comprises a lysis step comprising subjecting the biological sample to conditions to lyse the sample.

6. (Original) A process according to claim 5, wherein the  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$  is present during the lysis step.

7. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises DNA.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein the DNA comprises ds or ss DNA.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises RNA.

10. (Original) A process according to claim 9, wherein the RNA comprises rRNA, mRNA or total RNA.

11. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the chaotrope comprises a guanidium salt, urea, an iodide, chlorate, perchlorate or (iso)thiocyanate.

12. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

13. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

14. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$  comprises a solution of ammonia.

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein the source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$  and the chaotrope are provided together as a solution.

16. (Currently Amended) A kit for isolating nucleic acid from a nucleic acid-containing sample, which kit comprises:

- (a) a solution that comprises
  - (i) a chaotrope, and
  - (ii) a source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$ ; and
- (b) a nucleic acid binding solid phase capable of binding nucleic acid in the presence of the chaotrope; ~~and~~
- (c) ~~a source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$ .~~

17. (Original) A kit according to claim 16, which further comprises a solution for eluting the nucleic acid from the solid phase.

18. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 16, which further comprises a lysis solution for lysing biological samples.

19. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 16, wherein the nucleic acid binding solid phase comprises a silica-based solid phase.

20. (Previously Presented) A kit according to claim 16, wherein the solid phase is magnetic.

21. (Currently Amended) A kit according to claim 16, wherein the source of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  or  $\text{NH}_3$  ~~comprises a solution of~~ is ammonia.

22. (Canceled)